

left after a year when he realized his poor vision would prevent him from becoming a pilot. Jay moved forward and joined the Army. "Jay was always . . . positive, ambitious," remembered a friend. "He was always your good conscience."

As one of Sergeant Martin's sisters, Lark Adams, put it, "He was just a shining star. He followed the rules. He did what he was supposed to. He was an example to everyone."

After his death, Jay's fiancé Maria Padilla, explained that he would have wanted to see those close to him "laughing because he left us doing what he loved. He left us being the soldier he was so proud of being."

I hope his family and all who loved Jay will find comfort in that image of the proud and selfless soldier who won several awards including the Army Commendation Medal and the Army Good Conduct Medal. But I also hope they find joy in their memories of the young man who devised hide-and-seek strategy with his friends, who was a swim and track star at Forest Park High School, who took such great pride in his Dodge Stratus RT, who played video games in his grandmother's kitchen, and who debated the future of the F-14 with his uncle.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Jay's father Dwight Martin and stepmother Penny Martin; his grandfather Harry Martin; his four sisters, Lark, Dove, Raven and Shannon; his fiancé Maria, and all the other relatives and friends who are bereaved. We honor him as a hero and together mourn his loss.

#### MATTHEW SHEPARD ACT OF 2007

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

On July 7, 2002 in Tampa, FL, Devin Scott Angus attacked Sonny Gonzales and Stephen Hair as the two men were leaving a gay pride event at the Florida Aquarium. Angus allegedly yelled antigay slurs at the men, dropped his pants, and screamed additional obscenities. He then attacked Gonzales and Hair, repeatedly punching and kicking them. Gonzales suffered a gash in his head, while Hair suffered a skull fracture, a cracked sinus, and a broken front tooth. According to reports, Angus' sole motivation was the victims' sexual orientation.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Matthew Shepard Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation

and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

#### HONORING EARNELL LUSTER

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, every day, millions of American make sacrifices for their families and friends. Yet the man I honor today has made the ultimate sacrifice for neither kin nor kind. Earnell Luster is a former Marine and a great American. As a life-long resident of Minneapolis, MN, he exemplified the role of a Good Samaritan within his community. Mr. Luster sacrificed his own life for the sake of another, and his bravery and courage makes him a hero.

On February 15, 2007, Mr. Luster was walking by an apartment building in south Minneapolis when he came across two women who were being repeatedly beaten by a male attacker. Being the man he was, Mr. Luster could not walk away from what he was witnessing. He sprang into action by demanding the attacker halt his assault upon the women. By doing so, he gave the women enough time to escape their attacker. Tragically, the attacker turned his anger on Mr. Luster and delivered several blows to his head that proved to be fatal. That evening, in an act of true selflessness, Earnell Luster gave his life for another.

His actions that evening exemplify the life he lived. As a well-respected elder in his church and within his community, Mr. Luster lived a life full of joy, duty, and great conviction. His service to the Marines in the mid-1970s demonstrates the strength of his character. Mr. Luster enjoyed life, especially the opportunities that he had to go fishing with his twin brother Earnest.

Earnell Luster's tragic death is evidence that crime can affect each one of us. Our commitment to fighting crime must not ebb and flow with the statistics.

My thoughts and prayers remain with Earnell's twin brother Earnest, his mother Lorraine Scott, and his entire family. Mr. Luster's selfless act of bravery earns him a place in the hearts of Minnesotans and Americans everywhere.

#### TRIBUTE TO SENATOR TED STEVENS

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I rise to join in this body's hearty congratulations to our colleague from Alaska, Mr. STEVENS, as the longest serving Republican Senator. The remarkable thing about TED STEVENS is not the number of years he has served but the amount of service he has put into those years.

The Founders did a unique thing when they created the Senate. They knew that democracy should both let the majority rule most of the time but also protect minority viewpoints from the tyranny of the majority. They cre-

ated a House of Representatives based on proportional representation. Meanwhile, in the Senate, they gave every State, large and small, exactly two votes. They then went a step further, and created the Senate as a body that operates by consensus. The result is a place where one person with a good idea can impact the entire body.

TED STEVENS is a living embodiment of the wisdom of our Founding Fathers. He is precisely the kind of Senator they hoped for: forceful, persevering, principled and indefatigably devoted to his State's interests.

Alaska is a unique State and Senator STEVENS reflects its style and unlimited potential exceptionally. In every aspect, Alaska is a long, long way from Washington, DC, and its unusual bureaucratic culture. We all benefit from the independent, self-reliant spirit of Alaska that the Senator brings, reminding us of the pioneer heritage of the West. I am personally appreciative of the Senator's hospitality when visiting in his home State. I thought we had "wide open spaces" in Minnesota, but Alaska's are certainly both wider and more open.

When President Abraham Lincoln's Secretary of State, William Seward, finalized the purchase of Alaska, it was thought to be a folly. How blessed we all are as Americans to have its abundant wilderness and natural resources as part of our national experience.

I have found that when people want to learn something really important, they prefer an example to an explanation. As I have tried to learn my way around this institution, Senator STEVENS has been a role model, an example, and a friend. I thank him for his kindness.

But even more I thank him for his service which has made this Nation safer, stronger and freer for all. He makes his great State and all his colleagues proud to say they know TED STEVENS.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### HONORING NORM GRAYSON

• Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, today I honor in the RECORD of the Senate Norm Grayson, an outstanding realtor and a great friend, and to acknowledge a very special occasion.

On June 15, 2007, Norm will celebrate his 40th year in the real estate business and host a barbeque for hundreds of friends in Oconee County. Although I cannot be there in person, it is a privilege to stand in this Senate and honor this tremendous milestone.

Norm and my father Ed were the best of friends. Both men are legends in Georgia real estate. Norm has earned CRS, CCIM, and CRB designations, as well as the Home Builders CBI designation. Among his many achievements, Norm has served as president of the Athens Board of Realtors and the Athens Home Builders Association.